

Dearborn River High Bridge  
Spanning the Dearborn River  
on FAS 434  
Augusta Vicinity  
Lewis & Clark County  
Montana

HAER no. MT-23

HAER  
MONT,  
25 - AUG. V.  
1 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

ENDUM  
FOLLOWS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Dearborn River High Bridge

MT-23

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Location: Spanning the Dearborn River on FAS 434, 15 miles south of Augusta, Lewis and Clark County, Montana.

Date of Construction: 1897

Present Owner: Lewis and Clark County  
Lewis and Clark County Courthouse  
Helena, Montana 59601

Present Use: Vehicular Bridge

Significance: The King Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio constructed this four-span, half-deck Pratt truss over the Dearborn River in 1897. The main span is a pin-connected half-deck Pratt truss span 160 feet long and 16 feet wide. The half-deck configuration of the bridge is unusual in that the floor beams are attached to the vertical members near their mid-points rather than at their top or bottom ends as in the deck and through configurations, respectively. The half-deck was a rarely-built configuration and the Dearborn River bridge is one of the few remaining examples of its kind in the United States. The superstructure of the main span was fabricated as follows: the lower lateral chords are forged steel eyebars; mid lateral chords of four angle sections riveted with batten plates are connected to the verticals at the floor beam connections with gusset plates; upper lateral chords are continuous steel plates riveted atop two channel sections with lacing bars riveted along the bottom flanges; vertical members are laced channel sections and diagonals are either eyebars or eyebars with turnbuckles. Laced angle struts and turnbuckle cross-braces provide the sway bracing. Lateral bracing is provided by turnbuckle cross-braces between the struts and between the floor beams. The floor system was erected with a plank deck and timber stringers supported by steel I-beam (15I45) floor beams. There is a steel girder approach

span from the north, 30 feet long, and two steel girder approaches from the south, both 30 feet long. The main span rests on encased concrete steel tubular piers.

Transmitted by:

Kevin Murphy, Historian HAER, 1984; from data compiled by Greg Fitzsimons and Fredric L. Quivik, 1979

ADDENDUM TO  
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Augusta Vicinity  
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National Park Service  
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Washington, D.C. 20013

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